

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Craig D. Sunada et al.

Serial No.: 10/016,746

Filed: October 30, 2001

Docket No.: 10991022-8

Title: INNER PAPER GUIDE FOR MEDIA SHAPE CONTROL IN A PRINTER

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed July 28, 2004. Claims 28-36 and 38-50 have been allowed. Claim 27 was rejected. With this Response, claim 27 has been amended. Claims 27-36 and 38-50 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 27 is objected to based on an informality. With this Response, Applicant's have amended claim 27 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants' request that the objection to independent claim 27 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0816107 A2 to Murayama (Murayama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,168,270 to Saikawa et al. (Saikawa). Applicants submit that one skilled in the art could not apply the teachings of Murayama in view of Saikawa and arrive at the invention of amended independent claim 27.

Murayama fails to disclose a **first guide structure longitudinally extending continuously from the pick roller structure to the drive roller structure as conceded by the Examiner**. Further, neither Murayama nor Saikawa disclose a **second guide structure extending between the pick roller wheels and longitudinally extending continuously between the pick roller structure and the drive roller structure to define a media path between the first and second guide structures**. In contrast, Murayama merely discloses a paper sheet guide 80 having an upper guide 80a and a lower guide 80b positioned between rollers 20 and rollers 2, 3. See Murayama, Fig. 1 and col. 9, lines 5-11. In further contrast, Saikawa discloses a number of separately located members that operate to guide a recording sheet P, including platen 144, pinch roller guide 143, and upper guide 148. See Saikawa, Fig. 7 and col. 7, lines 28-38.

Accordingly, one skilled in the art could not combine the teachings of Murayama with the teachings of Saikawa and arrive at the invention of independent claim 27. Allowance of independent claim 27 is respectfully requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 28-36 and 38-50 stand allowed.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 27-36 and 38-50 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, allowance of claims 27-36 and 38-50 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3960 or Steven E. Dicke at Telephone No. (612) 573-2002, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 28 day of October, 2004.

By Steven E. Dicke
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